

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,016

Examiner

Tu-Tu Ho

Applicant(s)

AHN ET AL.

Art Unit

2818

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Papers filed 01/22/2004 and 10/25/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I, claims 1-17, and cancellation of claims 18-38 in the reply filed on 10/25/2004 is acknowledged.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a semiconductor device having all exclusive limitations as recited in claims 1 and 12, comprising a semiconductor substrate, a plurality of spaced apart first isolation layers on the semiconductor substrate, the first isolation layers either defining a plurality of active regions or being parallel and adjacent ones of the first isolation layers defining a plurality of second isolation layers in between, a plurality of cell gates, a dielectric layer on the sidewalls of the cell gates, a plurality of parallel control lines each surrounding at least a portion of the dielectric layer, and a data line connecting a subset of the cell gates, each of the cell gates either on a respective one of the active regions and comprising a stack of a gate dielectric layer, a storage node, a multi-layer tunnel barrier, and a source layer or each of the cell gates being on at least a portion of two of the second isolation layers.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Copies of the references are not being furnished with this Office Action per MPEP § 707.05(a).

U.S. Patent 5,427,966 to Komori et al. discloses a nonvolatile memory array having cells, adjacent cells sharing a source line that is connected to a common source/drain shared by each pair of adjacent cells, and a data line that is common to all of the other source/drains in a row, the other source/drains not being connected to a source line.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu-Tu Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-1778. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID NELMS can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T-H

Tu-Tu Ho
November 09, 2004


David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800